B.   AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of managing resources, said
     method comprising:
     receiving one or more buffer variables and one or more
     endogenous variables;
     determining one or more exogenous variables; and
     simulating one or more resource requirements using the
     buffer variables, the endogenous variables, and the
     exogenous variables, wherein the simulating further
     comprises:
          performing discrete event systems simulation using one
          or more pseudo-random numbers.

2.   (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein the
     buffer variable is selected from the group consisting of a
     buffer size, a buffer zone, and a virtual buffer.

3.   (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further
     comprising:
     selecting a simulation mode; and
     receiving a resource plan input based on the selected
     simulation mode.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 3
     wherein the simulation mode is ~~selected from the group~~
     ~~consisting of~~ a research mode~~, a learning mode, and a~~
     ~~decision-support mode.~~, which uses an automatic input that
     includes one or more values, one or more formulas, and one
     or more rules.

5.   (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein at
     least one of the endogenous variables is selected from the

group consisting of a capacity increase decision, a capacity decrease decision, and a resource supply source.

6. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein at least one of the exogenous variables is determined by calculating a resource supply.

7. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
   generating a resource usage report that includes the resource requirements in response to the simulation.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
   selecting a replenishment mode, the replenishment mode including a pure replenishment mode and a forecast replenishment mode; and
   including the selected replenishment mode as an input to the simulating.

10. (Currently Amended) An information handling system comprising:
    one or more processors;
    a memory accessible by the processors;
    one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by the processors;
    a resource management tool, the resource management tool including:
        means for receiving one or more buffer variables and one or more endogenous variables;

means for determining one or more exogenous variables; and

means for simulating one or more resource requirements using the buffer variables, the endogenous variables, and the exogenous variables, <u>wherein the simulating further comprises:</u>

<u>performing discrete event systems simulation using one or more pseudo-random numbers</u>.

11. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 10 wherein the buffer variable is selected from the group consisting of a buffer size, a buffer zone, and a virtual buffer.

12. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 10 further comprising:
means for selecting a simulation mode; and
means for receiving a resource plan input based on the selected simulation mode.

13. (Currently Amended) The information handling system as described in claim 12 wherein the simulation mode is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ a research mode~~, a~~ ~~learning mode, and a decision-support mode.~~ <u>, which uses an automatic input that includes one or more values, one or more formulas, and one or more rules.</u>

14. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 10 wherein at least one of the endogenous variables is selected from the group consisting of a capacity increase decision, a capacity decrease decision, and a resource supply source.

15. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 10 wherein at least one of the exogenous variables is determined by calculating a resource supply.

16. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 10 further comprising:
means for generating a resource usage report that includes the resource requirements in response to the simulation.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 10 further comprising:
means for selecting a replenishment mode, the replenishment mode including a pure replenishment mode and a forecast replenishment mode; and
means for including the selected replenishment mode as an input to the simulating.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored in a computer operable media for managing resources, said computer program product comprising:
means for receiving one or more buffer variables and one or more endogenous variables;
means for determining one or more exogenous variables; and
means for simulating one or more resource requirements using the buffer variables, the endogenous variables, and the exogenous variables, wherein the simulating further comprises:
performing discrete event systems simulation using one or more pseudo-random numbers.

20. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 19 wherein the buffer variable is selected from the group consisting of a buffer size, a buffer zone, and a virtual buffer.

21. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 19 further comprising:
means for selecting a simulation mode; and
means for receiving a resource plan input based on the selected simulation mode.

22. (Currently Amended) The information handling system as described in claim 21 wherein the simulation mode is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ a research mode~~, a learning mode, and a decision-support mode.~~, which uses an automatic input that includes one or more values, one or more formulas, and one or more rules.

23. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 19 wherein at least one of the endogenous variables is selected from the group consisting of a capacity increase decision, a capacity decrease decision, and a resource supply source.

24. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 19 wherein at least one of the exogenous variables is determined by calculating a resource supply.

25. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 19 further comprising:
means for generating a resource usage report that includes the resource requirements in response to the simulation.

26.   (Canceled)

27.   (Original)   The information handling system as described in
       claim 19 further comprising:
       means for selecting a replenishment mode, the replenishment
       mode including a pure replenishment mode and a forecast
       replenishment mode; and
       means for including the selected replenishment mode as an
       input to the simulating.